

Message Text

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62

ACTION PPT-01

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R 141620Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3639

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY CARIO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, BGEN, AG

SUBJ: WASHINGTON BRIEFINGS FOR US BUSINESSMEN GOING TO ALGERIA

DETERIORATION OF ALGERIAN/MOROCCAN RELATIONS AND RECENT INCIDENTS IN ALGERIA INVOLVING FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN PROMPT US TO SUGGEST THAT IN BRIEFING US BUSINESSMEN ON THEIR WAY TO ALGERIA, WASHINGTON AGENCIES SHOULD CAREFULLY POINT OUT GOA'S CURRENT HYPERSENSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD FOREIGNERS. SEVERAL FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN ARE NOW IN ALGERIAN JAILS ON CHARGES OF "ECONOMIC ESPIONAGE", APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF THEIR OVERZEALOUS ACTIVITIES IN OBTAINING BUSINESS INFORMATION. WE HEAR DAILY REPORTS OF BUSINESSMEN BEING STOPPED, WARNED AND QUESTIONED BECAUSE OF CAMERAS OF BINOUCLARS. INDEED, ONE BRITISH BUSINESSMAN WAS ARRESTED LAST WEEK FOR STOPPING ON THE STREET TO LOOK AT THE BUILDING HOUSING THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

2. WHILE DIPLOMATS ARE RESTRICTED TO ALGIERS AREA AND
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AREAS TO THE EAST, BUSINESSMEN AND TOURISTS ARE NOT.

THEY WILL NEVERTHELESS EXPERIENCE ROADBLOCKS AND OFTEN
BE ASKED FOR THEIR PAPERS, PARTICULARLY IN THE WESTERN
PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

3. WE SUGGEST THAT BUSINESSMEN BE ADVISED TO BE
EXTREMELY CAREFUL IN THEIR PERSONAL BEHAVIOR OR IN
CONVERSATION WITH BUSINESS CONTACTS.
PARKER

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